

The Advisor

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ARMY DAY!

Weapons Found

Refurbished Iraqi Academy

U.S. Army Reserve Perspective

MNSTC-I

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U.S. Army

Deputy Public Affairs Officer:
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U.S. Army

Operations NCO/
Community Relations:
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U.S. Army

Editor:
Tech. Sgt. Andrew Hughan
U.S. Air Force

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Questions and comments should be directed to the public affairs office:

pao@mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil

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Cover Photo: Iraqi soldiers carry their flags during the Army day parade

U.S. Army Reserve Serving a Nation at War

By U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Richard Sherlock, Deputy Commanding General CMATT & Lt. Col. Sean Sullivan, MNSTC-I J-5

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. James Helmly, the chief, Army Reserve and the commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, summed up the contribution of the U.S. Army reserve in five simple words: "We make the Army whole." At no time has that been more evident than today, when the U.S. Army Reserve has more than 30,000 Soldiers serving in imminent-danger locations. Since that significant day in September, 2001, 68 U.S. Army reservists have been killed-in-action and nearly 500 have been wounded-in-action.

Title 10 U.S. Code, the law governing the U.S. Army Reserve's mission, tasks the Army Reserve to, "provide trained units and qualified persons available for active duty in the armed forces, in time of war or national emergency, and at such other times as the national security may require." That requires the Army Reserve, and Army reservists, to be ready to deploy in support of U.S. security objectives, at a moment's notice, and establishes the Army Reserve as a key part of the U.S. Army's capabilities along with the active Army and the Army National Guard.

The U.S. Army Reserve enables the U.S. Army to meet its operational requirements with fewer full-time resources. For example, the Army Reserve has fielded many of the combat support and combat service support units that are providing support to multi-national forces in Iraq and throughout the theater of operations. The Army Reserve is also providing trained and ready Soldiers who are staffing positions throughout every level of command, from U.S. Central Command (rear and forward), through the Coalition Forces Land Component Command, the Multi-National Force - Iraq, and to individual Soldiers who are training and supporting Iraq's security forces.

The U.S. Army tasks the Army Reserve to train its Soldiers in more than 200 individual and collective skills, which in some cases are unique to the Army Reserve. In Iraq, the Army reserve is using all of those skills and, in many cases, training Iraqi soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers in those skills. For example, the Army Reserve has drill sergeants, in seven provinces teaching their Iraqi army counterparts how to train their soldiers; The Army Reserve Signal Corps Soldiers are teaching radio operations, and Transportation Corps Soldiers are training the Iraqi Transportation Regiment. However, the Army Reserve brings more than units, Soldiers, and trainers to this effort. It also brings experience, ideas, shared ideals, and commitment.

Generally, the average Army reservist is a few years older than his/her active Army counterpart. That age difference comes with the experience of living with, working with, and interacting with a more diverse slice of society and a broader range of occupations than active Army Soldiers. That helps bring different perspectives and ideas into the problem-solving process. Additionally, in many cases, U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers have significantly more experience in their career fields than their active Army counterparts. For example, the Army Reserve has many 88M Truck Drivers who are also civilian long-haul truck drivers and many 21B Combat Engineers who work for, and even own, construction companies.

We also share the same ideals of active Army Soldiers. All Soldiers (Active Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard) are volunteers and share the same ideals of commitment and service-to-nation. When our Soldiers volunteer, or are mobilized, in support of an operation, they

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Academy gets renovation, expands to receive additional cadets

By Nicole Dalrymple, Gulf Region Northern District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

MOSUL, Iraq - A \$5.2 million renovation and construction contract was awarded in December for the Zahko Military Academy in northern Iraq. The academy, which opened in 1997, will have four existing facilities renovated and two new ones built under this contract. Six of the academy's training classrooms were renovated earlier this year under a separate contract.

The project is being funded by the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq. MNSTC-I is responsible for getting the Iraqi army, national guard, security and border police ready to provide security for Iraq.

"In respect to Zahko our mission is to develop the existing academy into an Iraqi Military Academy that will produce high quality, motivated and disciplined officers to serve the new Iraqi army," said Lt. Col. Mark Slowik, assistant director of education for the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team.

The academy staff is excited about the construction project, said Maj. Gen. Shihab Duhoki, academy commandant. "The coming improvements provide us good support in developing the academy for a brighter future."

The academy's cadets are typically high school graduates, between the ages of 18 and 23. Officials would like to start recruiting college graduates, too. "Our aim is to attract as many college educated people as possible to fill the officer ranks," Slowik said. "Leadership is a key ingredient in rebuilding an army. Zahko is building future leaders."

The academy offers a wide array of training that lasts anywhere from three to six months, to one to two years. The two-year program teaches basic soldiering skills such as drill and ceremony, saluting and weapons training. Cadets also receive lessons in maneuver tactics, land navigation, defensive strategies, attack and withdrawal procedures, artillery, military engineering, nuclear, biological and chemical response and military history. Core training in physical fitness, computers and English are taught throughout the two years.

"Before the war, we only trained cadets from Kurdistan," explained Duhoki. "Since the war, we have started to train cadets from all provinces of Iraq. For instance, cadets from Baghdad, Baqubah, Kut and Mosul are sent here for training by the Ministry of Defense."

"The coming improvements provide us good support in developing the academy for a brighter future."

*Maj. Gen. Shihab Duhoki
Academy Commandant*

This is a powerful message of how things are changing for the better in Iraq, said Rich Maskil, MNSTC-I project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Northern District. "The collaboration between the Kurds and Arabs is a great thing," he said. "It's a big difference going from Saddam Hussein's campaign against the Kurds to where we are now - the Kurds and Arabs training and fighting together to provide security for a free Iraq."

The class that just graduated from Zahko included its first Arabic students, Slowik pointed out. "Zahko represents a small step in the unification of Iraq."

Project construction will take place in three phases that will overlap to accelerate the process. "This is a fast-track design-build contract," Maskil explained. "It is designed to move out quickly. In just a few days the contractor submitted site

and foundation designs. They were given approval to start work and dirt was turning Dec. 27. The contractor is anticipating completion in 18 weeks with the compressed work schedule."

New construction includes a barracks, headquarters building, 440-meter track, paved drill and ceremonies training ground and an obstacle course. Renovations will be done to the academy's existing headquarters building, two dining facilities, perimeter wall, water supply and distribution system, sanitary sewer system and the swimming pool.

The new buildings will be constructed using block and mortar, a more labor intensive construction process that maximizes the employment of local Iraqis. The contractor, based out of Turkey, has already begun to bring in local workers and has initiated a positive relationship with the academy, Maskil said.

The contractor's on-the-ground coordinator, who requested to remain anonymous, said the company saw the project as a good opportunity. "There is a lot of work to be done in Iraq," he said. "We

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Newly graduated students from the Zahko Military Academy march in formation. After graduating, they are commissioned as second lieutenants in the Iraqi army.

*Photo by Nicole Dalrymple, Gulf Region Northern District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

ARMY DAY

Army Day Celebrates Service and Sacrifice

*By U.S. Army Maj. Charles Miller &
U.S. Army Capt. Elizabeth Young
MNSTC-I Command Group*

TAJI, Iraq – Iraq celebrated Army Day on Jan. 6, marking the 84th anniversary of the activation of the Iraqi army on Jan. 6, 1921. Ceremonies across the country recalled the Army's past service and sacrifice and showcased current and future capabilities.

Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, Minister of Defense Hazam Sha'alan, Minister of State Cassim Daoud, and Gen. Babakir Al Zibari, the Chief of Staff of the Iraqi Armed Forces, presided over ceremonies held at Taji Military Base, north of Baghdad, before returning to

Baghdad to conduct ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Prime Minister Allawi addressed the Iraqi Armed Forces in particular and the people of Iraq more generally, in his speech at Taji.

"Free brothers, Iraq is facing a difficult and complicated situation especially in this period, but together we are going to build a strong and independent Iraq, a country free of oppression and depression, a country based on the power of law, honesty and truth," Allawi said.

"It's a difficult mission, but we will do it. You brothers, members of the army forces, will face crucial challenges, but I am confident of your ability to overcome

Commander, with responsibility for the Iraqi army. A pass in review then showcased some of the capabilities of the Army.

Elements representing each of Iraq's Divisions, units of the Iraqi Intervention Force, including the 6th Brigade, and elements of the 1st Mechanized Brigade participated in the military parade, driving nearly one-hundred vehicles including armored personnel carriers, tanks, cargo trucks and gun trucks, past the reviewing stand.

Following the events at Taji, Prime Minister Allawi conducted a separate ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Baghdad. The 91 cadets that made up the inaugural class of the Iraqi Military Academy, which graduated Dec. 6, participated in the ceremony, which included the presentation of a wreath. These cadets were then sworn in as officers in the Iraqi army. The ceremony also recognized the service of several Iraqi army units that participated in major operations since the transfer of sovereignty.

Also in attendance at the event were U.S. Ambassador to Iraq John Negroponte, U.S. Army Gen. George Casey, commanding general Multi-National Force – Iraq, and U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, commanding general, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq.

Over the past six months, Iraqi forces have fought alongside Coalition forces in Najaf, Samarra, Fallujah, Baghdad, North Babil, and a host of other locations that now includes Mosul. In Fallujah alone, Iraqi forces lost eight of their members and had more than 40 wounded. In the weeks to come, more units will become operational and join the Iraqi security forces already working to shoulder an increasing amount of the security tasks in their country.

While countless challenges confront Iraqi security forces, there have been many



Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi addresses the assembly at the Army Day celebration.

"Together we will win. Together we will defeat our enemies. Together we will build our beloved Iraq,"

*Ayad Allawi
Iraqi Prime Minister*

them with your heads up. Your solid will is an advantage to defeat these challenges. Together we will win. Together we will defeat our enemies. Together we will build our beloved Iraq," Allawi said.

Army Day ceremonies around Iraq including reading of a proclamation issued by Gen. Babakir that recalled the proud history of the Iraqi Army, announced the activation of nine Iraqi Army divisions, and explained the incorporation of the National Guard into the Regular Army. This move will "ensure unity of command and effort to meet the security challenges we currently face," Babakir noted.

During the ceremony at Taji, Prime Minister Allawi and Minister Sha'alan named Iraqi army Lt. Gen. Abdul Qader Mohammed Jassim, who was the Iraqi ground forces commander in Operation Al Fajr (Fallujah), the Land Forces

ARMY DAY



An Iraqi soldier carries his nation's flag during the Army Day parade.

accomplishments over the past six months. Iraq had a nascent Army just six months ago; it now has units operating throughout the country. There are 18 battalions of the Regular Army and Intervention Force in operations now, up from one operational battalion six months ago, and nine more are scheduled to become operational over the next month-and-a-half.

Iraq's Muthanna Brigade, originally organized and trained by the Iraqis to provide local security in Baghdad, now has three battalions in operations, including one each in Baghdad, Fallujah, and North Babil, and one more in training. In addition, the Iraqi National Guard (which will be incorporated into the Regular Army), is comprised of 42 operational battalions that are increasingly well-equipped, and more will be formed, trained, and equipped in the next six months.

Despite the fact that Iraqi forces have suffered casualties in many of their operations, have been attacked multiple times each day, and have suffered losses through intimidation attacks, there remains

no shortage of volunteers; in fact, basic training courses are ongoing for more than 4,000 former soldiers to fill under-strength Iraqi regular army and intervention force with additional soldiers.

The Army also now has more specialized units in its repertoire. Iraq's Special Operations Brigade now includes a counter-terrorist force and a commando battalion, each of which has conducted dozens of successful operations. In addition to those elements, Iraq's first mechanized battalion will be operational in mid-January, along with a tank company and transportation battalion; the remaining elements of the 1st Mechanized Brigade will be trained and equipped by the summer.

Iraq is also developing naval and air capabilities. Iraq's Coastal Defense Force is now operational, with five patrol craft, 34 smaller vessels, and a naval infantry regiment that recently completed training. Iraq's Air Force has two operational squadrons equipped with nine reconnaissance aircraft that operate during the day and at night. Two more squadrons, one comprised of three U.S. gifted C-130E aircraft and one comprised of two UH-1 helicopters (to be followed by 14 more UH-1s and by four Bell Jet Ranger helicopters), will stand up in mid-January.

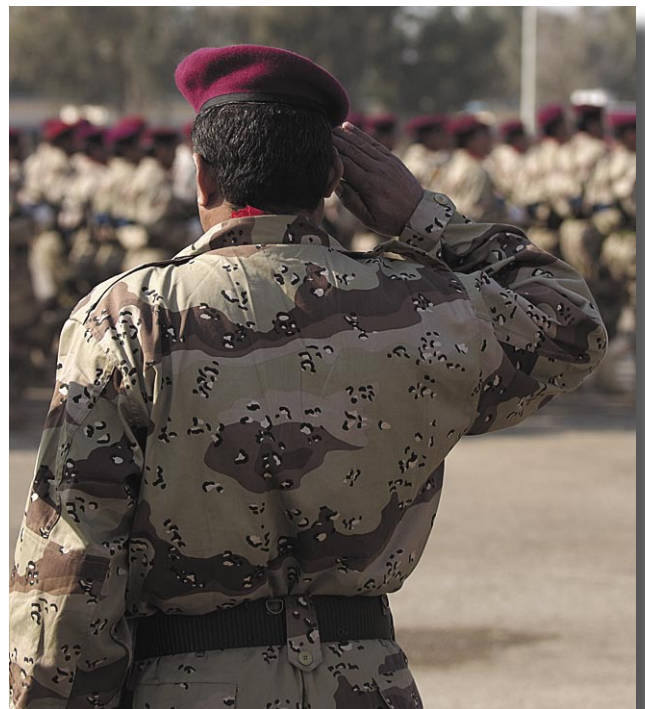
Having helped re-establish Iraq's Military Academy, NATO Training Mission-Iraq is now helping Iraqi military leaders re-establish the Iraqi armed forces officer education system with the development of a Junior Leaders College, a Staff College, and a War College. It is also monitoring and advising senior leaders.

In addition to the growth and development of the Armed Forces, security forces belonging to the Ministry of Interior are also steadily making progress. Both the regular police and special police units will be critical to security and stability leading up to election day, on election day, and in the post-election period.

At present, the Iraqi Police Service has more than 53,000 trained and equipped police officers, up from some 26,000 six months ago. Of the 27,000 police officers who have been trained over the past six months, 13,643 were former officers who underwent three-week transition training and 13,314 were new recruits who underwent eight-week training. More than 37,000 additional police are on duty and will complete training in the months ahead.

Five police academies are now operational; together, they will soon

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An Iraqi soldier salutes his fellow soldiers as they march past the reviewing stand at the Army Day celebration. Photos by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andrew Hughan MNSTC-I Public Affairs

Transportation Regiment Drives Into History

*Story & Photos by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andrew Hughan
MNSTC-I Public Affairs*

AN NUMANIYAH, Iraq - Another chapter of Iraqi army history was written this week when 22 vehicles and 58 soldiers from the 1st Motor Transport Regiment moved out from their home base on their first convoy from Taji to An Numaniyah. The purpose of the mission was to deliver helmets and body armor, and conduct live-fire training for the regiment's soldiers.

All 22 Iraqi vehicles, 18 M35A2 "Deuce and a halves," three French-made Panhard vehicles, and one M35A2 wrecker, were driven by Iraqi soldiers on the 150-mile trip. The regiment was escorted by a Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq security team.

"This was the regiment's first training on how to plan and execute a large vehicle convoy by themselves," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Philip McGrath, the MNSTC-I training commander at Taji Military Training Base who is responsible for the regiment. "The convoy went well, considering the



Iraqi soldiers set up a security perimeter around a Panhard and M35A2 vehicles on the road during a convoy to An Numaniyah.

level of training and the short length of time the unit has been formed."

Four vehicles in the convoy broke down while en route. This tested the vehicle self-recovery skills of the Iraqi soldiers who had to assess the problem and select the best course of action. Three of the trucks had to be towed and secured at Camp Ferrin Huggins south of Baghdad. One Panhard broke a hydraulic line and had to be towed the last 50 miles to An Numaniyah. When the convoy was forced to stop, soldiers dismounted and established a security perimeter around the convoy while vehicle issues were resolved.

According to Lt. Col. McGrath, convoy operations are dangerous and the regiment's mission is to move people and supplies to support combat operations. The convoy is expected to defend itself in case of attack or ambush. The convoy and live-fire exercises exposed the soldiers to tactics and techniques that will serve them well in a hostile environment.

"The soldiers did very well on most of their tasks," said Lt. Col. McGrath. "Once we made it safely to An Numaniyah the next step was to get them familiar with combat scenarios in the trucks."

The live-fire training prepared the transportation soldiers to react to sniper fire and ambushes. Soldiers riding in the back of the truck and passengers in the cabs had to identify targets appearing on both sides of the road and had to aim and shoot while traveling at 20 – 30 mph.

The colonel also said, "The regiment has a long way to go. They have to learn to increase their speed on the road and improve their self-recovery of disabled vehicles but they will be ready to complete missions, without Coalition forces support once summer arrives."



Iraqi soldiers prepare to fire from the back of a M35A2 truck during live fire training at An Numaniyah.

Iraqi and Coalition Forces Conduct Raids, Capture Insurgents

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Iraqi and coalition security forces conducted multiple raids recently capturing insurgents and IED materials.

Suspects Captured

A task force from the U.S. Army's 82nd Engineers and the 213th Iraqi National Guard captured a suspected insurgent in Kan'an Dec. 27. In an early morning raid the teams surrounded the target house and captured the suspect without incident.

On Dec. 29, the 205th Iraqi National Guard captured the brother of an insurgent leader in the Muqdadiah area. The suspect, Kahzil Mohsen Shalesh, is still at large, but his brother Hazil Mohsen Shalesh was captured and is giving information about the possible whereabouts of his brother.

Two significant anti-Iraq forces leaders suspected in multiple attacks against police stations and personnel were captured in Baqubah Jan. 5. Sheikh Yusif and Abd al Karim Ali were taken into custody by Iraqi police forces at a private home. Both men are suspected in attacks around Buhriz including the police station and leading a group that attacked an Iraqi army patrol base there. They are also tied to the Diyala

New Ba'ath party and Abd al Karim Ali is the reported leader of a political assassination cell.

Joint Engagements

The 204th Iraqi National Guard conducted a joint village engagement in Jayzania, meeting with local villagers, discussed security issues and handed out pro-Iraqi security forces flyers and handbills to the villagers on Jan. 4.

HVT and IED

In Muqdadiah the 205th Iraqi National Guard and a U.S. task force, in two separate raids captured men suspected of placing improvised explosive devices, weapons and IED supplies Jan 1.

The ING captured Amir Saleh Ismael and Ahmed Qumra Isaa while placing IEDs. The two are suspected of attacking the ING Dec. 29. The two also confessed to placing an IED in another location and a patrol found a 155mm white phosphorus round with detonation cord set to explode.

The second raid captured three high value targets Arkan Jawad Jari, Majid Abdul Hameed Kazim and Muthana

Kahdum Al Madawwere, are all suspected of being part of an IED cell. The weapons found consisted of five 82mm mortar rounds, nine AK-47s, one mortar site, two rocket propelled grenade sites and a RPK heavy machine gun.

The 205th Iraqi Army Battalion captured five anti-Iraq forces and a large weapons cache in Dali Abbas Jan. 6, after an IED exploded and destroyed one vehicle and injured three Iraqi soldiers. Soldiers found six 82mm mortar rounds, two 120mm mortar rounds, two 155mm artillery rounds, two RPG launchers and two RPG rounds.

Election Security

The Iraqi Police Service and the traffic police in Kirkuk are committed to improving security and vehicle operation in the city for the upcoming elections.

Police officials announced several programs including vehicle licensing, auto curfew during the election period, and a new law that carries a five-year jail sentence for assaulting traffic police. Officers have also requested an additional 500 police officers on the streets during the elections.

Pvt. Murphy
By Master Sgt. Mark Baker

Humph,
I guess they'll just
promote anyone
now-a-days!



The Advisor

Space permitting, MNSTC-I Public Affairs will reprint your e-mails, letters to the editor and/or article submissions. Appropriate submissions include the important developments in your section or unit that would be of interest to our readers. Please write to: pao@mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil

Editors Note: Sgt. 1st Class Mark Baker, creator of Pvt. Murphy was promoted to Master Sgt. this week, congratulations!

ICDF Celebrates Iraqi Army Day with Football Challenge

By U.S. Navy Cmdr. William Dempsey
MNSTC-I CMATT

Umm Qasr, Iraq - The Iraqi Coastal Defense Force celebrated Iraqi Army Day by laying down a challenge to the ICDF Advisory Support Team to a (European) football match. The AST, primarily made of members of the British Royal Navy and Royal Marines, responded enthusiastically to the challenge. The ICDF team was made up of members of the ICDF and the Iraqi Coastal Defense Regiment.

The teams gathered for the competition on the concrete parade ground on the Umm Qasr Naval Base. Although the Brits made a spirited effort, they were no match for their opponents. They narrowly missed several key scoring opportunities and were defeated 4-0 by

the ICDF team.

Despite the outcome, everyone was excited about the competition and looked forward to the next opportunity to show their skills and engage their new counterparts on the "field of battle."

"It was a wonderful occasion and a great opportunity to compete with the Iraqi Navy on the sports field," said Royal Navy Lt. Cmdr. Ian Linderman, Training Officer for the AST and Team Captain.

"They certainly have a strong team and the result reflected their competitive spirit and determination to succeed. We look forward to repeating the occasion, albeit with a rather different outcome."

Iraqi Army Day festivities concluded with the ICDF Officers inviting the AST Officers to a special dinner.

FORCE PROTECTION TIP

This is a simple reminder that you need to stay aware of what is happening around you.

What is suspicious activity? Anything that makes you think someone might be watching a person or place and it just doesn't seem right.

An unexplained person, vehicle, or action at different times or at different locations.

Individuals sitting in parked cars for a long time.

Individuals drawing pictures, taking notes, taking pictures, or asking questions about gates, guards, or security procedures.

Individuals acting unusual in the way they are watching and/or quickly looking away when they think someone might see them.

You are in a combat zone. You must stay alert to protect yourself and others.

Submitted by MNSTC-I
Force Protection

Academy cont.

hope to have other projects but what's important is that we do a good job here and construct a good quality product for the academy."

The coordinator, who was born in Turkey and raised in the United States, has a unique perspective on Iraq's journey towards democracy. "The American values of freedom and democracy are universal. The people of Iraq have never experienced this freedom. To them this is all new, but they are not going through this alone. We all want to see peace for Iraq, and any role I can play in helping to rebuild this country I am happy to."

During construction, Corps of Engineers personnel will provide construction management and quality control. "Upon completion, the academy will be an even

better place to train Iraq's future military," Maskil said. "They'll have better quality training facilities and the military will grow because the academy will have more room to accommodate cadets."

The prospect of more cadets makes Maj. Gen. Duhoki very happy. Currently, the academy can accommodate 100 students, but after renovations it will house 250.

"This work is very necessary," he said. "It helps us receive more cadets from all over Iraq. It increases our ability to receive and train them. After graduation they will serve in the Iraqi military as officers. Here we will provide them with all types of modern training so they can establish peace for Iraq with the help of coalition forces."

MNSTC-I Equipment Issue Update

The Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq issued the following equipment to the Iraqi security forces in the past week.

Ammunition	9,550,125 rounds
Helmets	10,957
Body Armor	3,742
AK 47s	2,770
Pistols	1,500
Uniforms	600
PKM Machine Gun	153
Vehicles	64



22 Complete SWAT Training in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Twenty-two Al Kut Iraqi policemen graduated from the Provincial SWAT Training and Implementation course in Baghdad Jan. 7.

Provincial SWAT provides a provincial-level, high-end, rapid-response, tactical unit responsible for high-risk arrest and hostage rescue under the direct authority of the city police chief.

The new officers receive a broad

menu of training in a variety of specialized areas including basic first aid and trauma, human relations and police conduct, day and night weapons firing, dynamic entry procedures, breaching, diversionary tactics and sniper firing.

The team will return to Al Kut where they will be deployed for service.

Army Reserve cont.

demonstrate to our Army and to our coalition partners the ideals of duty, selfless service, and service-to-nation.

When an Iraqi soldier realizes that the Coalition soldier working with him is a Reserve or National Guard soldier, it can serve to introduce or reinforce that ideal of service-to-nation, which is then carried into his own career.

Additionally, just as the introduction of ground forces signals a level of national commitment that is higher than the use of air or sea-based forces, the mobilization and large-scale use of Army Reserve and National Guard forces signals the United States' long-term commitment to sustaining an operation. That demonstration of national commitment is critical to our success in Iraq.

Our Coalition forces have performed magnificently in Iraq. Reserve component Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines have also performed magnificently and have proven they are prepared to serve their nation, at a moment's notice, to support our national objectives. Reservists provide a physical representation of the U.S. Army's values that can be translated into success. Those ideas are spreading to many Iraqis, who realize that our forces have given up much that is dear to them, in order to help Iraq rebuild its national infrastructure.

Once that is shared widely, more Iraqis may assist our efforts.

We are armies at war, serving nations at war. The U.S. Army Reserve and all of our active and reserve component partners are proud to serve the U.S. Army and U.S. priorities and policies. We have, all, made sacrifices and too many brave Americans, Coalition members, and Iraqis have made the ultimate sacrifice.

We should remember them and make sure that our efforts honor their memory by ensuring their sacrifices result in a stable, independent, and representative Iraqi government that is capable of serving the Iraqi people.

69 Graduate From Driver's Training

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Sixty-nine Iraqi soldiers completed a motor transport driver's training course Jan. 6, at Kirkush Military Training Base.

The training is part of the Iraqi government's continuing effort to have qualified military drivers to move vital supplies, equipment and personnel to units throughout Iraq.

The three-week training teaches the soldiers safe vehicle operations, defensive driving techniques, basic maintenance procedures and self-recovery skills.

All the soldiers will be assigned to the 1st Transportation Regiment at Taji Military Training Base.

Campuses Commission 91 Officers

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Ninety-one Iraqi soldiers graduated from two Iraqi Military Academy campuses Jan. 6; 68 from Al Rustamiyah in southeast Baghdad and 23 from Zahko in Mosul.

The academy is responsible for getting the Iraqi army, national guard and border police ready to provide security for Iraq.

The soldiers are former military academy students who had finished 24 months of a planned 36-month training course under Saddam's regime. This course ran for 90 days.

The new officers were the first class to receive the updated course curriculum which includes a wide array of training in basic soldiering skills such as drill and ceremony, weapons training, maneuver tactics, land navigation, defensive strategies, attack and withdrawal procedures, artillery, military engineering, nuclear, biological and chemical response and military history. Core training in physical fitness, computers and English are also taught.

The students are commissioned as second lieutenants in the Iraqi army upon graduation.

The incoming class of 130 cadets will begin a one-year course.

Army Day cont.

produce nearly 4,000 new police officers each month, while additional local academies continue the transition courses for police trained before liberation. A concerted effort has recently been made to modify police training, making it more suited to preparing police officers for operations in a counterinsurgency environment.

Coupled with that change in training has been a change in the construct in which police are operating. Police stations are being hardened, communication links are being improved, more equipment and arms are being provided to police and stations, and quick reaction forces, such as SWAT teams and Emergency Response Units, are being created. Five provincial SWAT teams have already completed training; two more are in training and 13 more are scheduled for training over the next six months. Iraq's

National Emergency Response Unit is now operational as well, and its elements have conducted operations in Baghdad, Fallujah, and Mosul.

Special Police Units, none of which were envisioned six months ago are capable of providing security in high-risk areas. Seven Police Commando battalions are now operational, with two more in training and additional battalions planned.

Six Public Order battalions are also operational, with six more planned. Iraq's Mechanized Police Brigade recently completed training and will begin operations in mid-January 2005 using 50 BTR-94 wheeled, armored vehicles. Lastly, as part of Iraq's effort to strengthen the security of its borders, Iraq's 1st Special Border Force Battalion is operating on the Syrian border in the western Anbar Province, and the 2nd Battalion will be operational in mid-February.

Since July 1, Iraqi security forces have

been issued more than 57 million rounds of ammunition (with another 148 million recently received and put into ammo storage areas around the country), 69,000 pistols, 46,000 AK-47s, 79,000 sets of body armor, 5,600 vehicles, and 20,900 radios.

Today there is more than \$1.87 billion in ongoing construction and reconstruction projects for Iraqi security forces. Projects include four multi-brigade installations, hundreds of police stations and border forts, countless headquarters and barracks, a number of training centers, and many operating bases. More than 7,500 Iraqi workers, on average, are being employed each week in these projects.

Iraqi Army Day not only marked the 84-year birthday of Iraq's Army, it also showcased some of the progress in reestablishing the Iraqi army since the Transfer of Sovereignty.

FINAL FRAMES

*Photos by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andrew Hughan,
MNSTC-I Public Affairs*



Above: Two Iraqi soldiers from the 1st Mechanized Brigade pass and review while aboard their MTLB vehicle at the Army Day parade in Taji.



Above: A French made Panhard vehicle from the Iraqi 1st Transportation Regiment drives on the parade field at the Army Day parade in Taji.



Right: Polish Army Warrant Officer Grzegorz Lewinski, the firearms training and range control officer at An Numaniyah, observes the Iraqi 1st Transportation Regiment's operations from the gun turret of an armored-up HMMWV.